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MARCH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Mr. Edmund Garbin, who spent much time on the Midway Islands, will present his slide show on the birds of that remote Island at this month's general membership meeting on March 14 at 7:30. The meeting will be at the Hall of Flowers, 9th Ave. and Lincoln Way, in San Francisco.

—DOLORES WHITE, *Program Chairperson*

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

This month, two fine films are being shown at the Oakland Auditorium Theater, 10th and Fallon Streets, Oakland. Each begins at 8 P.M., and each costs \$1.75.

On Monday, March 4, is being shown Charles Tyler Hotchkiss' *QUEEN OF THE CASCADES*, a beautiful film tribute to Mt. Rainier. On Monday, March 25 is *SWEDEN: MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA*, by John Bulger. The largest pristine expanse of land in Europe unfolds before your eyes in this spectacular film.

At 6 P.M. the night of each film is a no-host dinner at Tom Lovely's restaurant, 336 Grand Ave., Oakland, with the lecturer as a guest. Be sure to attend!

Covel's Conservation Corner

Watching birds, and people, on the well-attended GGAS January trip to Pescadero Marsh convinced me that beautiful, irreplaceable marshes deserve top priority for acquisition by Audubon or by any other organi-

zation or public agency that would preserve them as Wildlife Refuges. It is unlikely that these prime habitats will be left much longer for the birds if we do not find the funds to purchase them.

Meanwhile, a bayshore "people refuge" purchased partly with National Audubon (Whittell Estate) funds, Pt. Pinole Regional Park, has been declared unsafe for unattached hikers, and bird-watchers, by many outdoors-lovers. There have recently been vicious beatings of hikers by young hoodlums. The two Regional Park maintenance personnel stationed there cannot properly cover security and rangers must drive far from other parks to patrol it. The Richmond Police were relieved of patrolling this area when it became a Regional Park, although they do patrol a nearby housing tract where they suspect many of these young hoodlums live.

This visitor security problem is not peculiar to Pinole or other Regional Parks, but also exists in many municipal parks. We are most concerned because it keeps many nature students and outdoors lovers, particularly older citizens, from using the parks their taxes support. They may even fear to assemble for field trips or even attend meetings at park facilities. While I cannot claim expertise in solutions to this problem, I can offer suggestions based on experience and observations. More citizen training and participation in security measures would help. A wider spread of working hours for gardeners and other non-uniformed park employees to cover late afternoon and weekend periods when people make maximum use of their parks would be extremely helpful. The mere presence of employees is a deterrent to many muggers and other hoodlums. Dedicated park workers, administrators, and progressive labor union officials should cooperate in adjusting work shifts, without prohibitive pay differentials, to increase park security. At present, many municipal park employees start very early and go home in mid-afternoon.

Now, back to the marshes. This time it is Suisun Marsh, which is threatened . . . industry and subdivisions. All this was documented in the S. F. Chronicle on January 26, 1974. Clyde Eldon, manager of the Grizzly Island and Joice Island state refuges reports that each year 20,000 duck hunters, 30,000 fishermen, and even more birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts visit these state-owned marshes. Up to 10 million waterfowl annually scatter over Suisun, which makes it a vital link on the Pacific Flyway, and indispensable.

Bill Frost, a native Solano rancher, is co-chairman of the Suisun Marsh Defense League. The Department of Fish and Game recommends a buffer zone around the marsh be purchased, which would require \$4 million from the Bagley Conservation Fund. A bill for this purpose will

Bay Area Birds

In this column this month is a summary of last December's Oakland Christmas Count, amazing in itself for its total of 188 species. But more important, this fact should point out to the local birders that there is gold in our own back yards. There was nothing magical about December 16; as you sit and read this column, there are probably that many species within $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles (the radius of the count circle) of *your* house, and they are waiting for you to find them.

In these days of gasoline shortages, this fact becomes crucial. The birder is going to have to begin to think of local birds, and perhaps he or she will have to let the fancy birds at Honey Lake or the Salton Sea slip by until next year, if not later.

There is an easy, and satisfying, incentive to inspire the birder to scour his own area; the County List. Many birders, including this one, keep County Lists for every county they have visited. It can be a real challenge to try to build up your Contra Costa or San Francisco county list. The latter, by the way, includes the Farallones and plenty of open sea on the way there, and as a result, San Francisco County probably has one of the highest totals in the state.

Just as important, the County List can add some important knowledge about bird distribution. By noting the dates and locations of rare, or even uncommon, birds, the birder makes available information that may not otherwise be gathered. It would be my wish that we could actually compile, and publish, a list for all Bay Area counties. Perhaps this will be a project of this column in the near future, depending on the response given me by *you*.

Finally, forcing one's self to identify common, but confusing, species helps the birder sharpen his talent. How many of us look at a flock of gulls and say to ourselves, "I've seen all the species of gulls, so why bother checking those out?" Yet, how few of us can positively identify every gull we see, or even *most* gulls we see. Forcing ourselves to identify California Gull in all the local counties can't help but improve our birding. Remember that the really rare bird is only identified by seeing a bird and eliminating all possibilities that it may be a common local bird. We'll never find Iceland or Ivory or Black-headed Gull in the Bay Area until we really know Bonaparte's and California and even Thayer's.

And while you're at it, try keeping year lists for California and for North America. They fulfill the same functions, and they can really be fun. 200

species in a year is not too hard, 300 has been reached by some, and a few enthusiastic birders have found over 400 species in California in one year! The current record is 428, by Rich Stalleup in 1972.

A convenient way to keep all these lists you are going to begin is in the *C. F. O. Field List of the Birds of California*, a handy little pamphlet put out by the California Field Ornithologists just for such lists. There are ten columns for every bird recorded in California, enough space to record the ten Bay Area counties, for instance. It's available from Lucas Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, or by mail from the C. F. O., Box 369, Del Mar CA 92014., at 25¢ each (1.00 minimum by mail). And as long as you are writing to the C. F. O., consider subscribing to *Western Birds*, formerly *California Birds*, at \$5.00/year. This informal journal will contain articles of interest to the serious birdwatcher; topics include field identification problems, distribution, unusual records, and the like.

CHRISTMAS COUNT

The combination of excellent weather (no frost all fall, allowing summer insectivores to linger, plus no wind on count day for good birding conditions), extremely thorough coverage, and the aggregation of most of the better birders in central California produced the amazing total of **188 species**, a spectacular jump from the previous Oakland high of 171. Our **260** observers smashes the previous National Record for Most Participants (217, mostly feeder watchers, by Bethlehem, PA in 1971), and our **694** party hours obliterates the old National Record of 470 (Bethlehem, 300 of which were feeder hours, which do not count under this year's new rules: if they did, we could add another 57 hours). Thus we can justly claim to have by far the most thoroughly covered count circle in history. We also broke All-time National High Count records in **ten** species; the previous record in this department was seven by Bensten, Tex. in 1965 and Freeport, Tex. in 1972. Even more remarkable is that our species were not local specialties such as Lichtenstein's Oriole or rare winterers such as Philadelphia Vireo, but common species occurring all over the continent (Sharp-shinned Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Bewick's Wren) or at least through much of the West (Steller's Jay, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, Hutton's Vireo, Brown Towhee). We also came close to the old records for Red-shafted Flicker, Wrentit, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Fox Sparrow, and should at least lead the nation in these and several other species this year. We also may be the first count in history to log over 1000 party-miles (1093), 379 of which were on foot. Our 188 species should easily make the "top ten" this year, and we may be as high as 5th! Not only are we further north than any of our competitors, except Pt. Reyes, but we are the only count which

does not have any ocean. Truly, this year's Oakland count will be long remembered.

I would like to think everyone who participated, especially the many people who forsook more exciting areas to comb their neighborhoods. The names are too numerous to mention them all, but Naney Duteher, Robin Marrs, Joyce Nelson, Meg Pauletich, and Vi Homem and Florence Fisher should be commended for their outstanding totals of individual birds. We all owe many thanks to the numerous experts who migrated to Oakland from distant areas despite gas shortages: George Bing and Art Edwards from Livermore; Bill Bland and Bill Hurd from Fremont; Gordon Bolander and Bud Gralapp from Santa Rosa; Peter Brown, David Gaines, and Sally Judy from Davis; Greg Butcher from Menlo Park; Glenn Clifton and Wayne Tillay from Angwin; Bob Dyer, Peter Egan, Bob & Carol Yutzy, Joe & Pat Greenberg, Pat Hayes, and Mike Wihler from Palo Alto; Bruce Elliott from Felton; Bob Gill from Suisun; Tonna Harris, Ron LeValley, and Bob Rodriques from Arcata; Karl Krause from Carmichael; Ann, Bill, and Georgianne Manolis, and Rich Stallcup from Sacramento; Mike and John Parmeter from Napa; Bob and Meryl Stewart from Bolinas; Jerry Thompson from San Mateo; and John & Ricky Wariner from Portola Valley. It was nice to have some talent aboard: we had some of the best ears (Golden Bolander, Kimball Garrett, Russell Greenberg, Marie Mans, Rich Stalleup *et. al.*) and eyes (Laurie Binford, John Luther *et. al.*) in California spotting birds for us. Let's hope we can get everybody back here again next year to break 190 species.

—VAN REMSEN, *Compiler*

OAKLAND CHRISTMAS COUNT, DEC. 16, 1973

RESULTS: Common Loon **85**, Arctic Loon 29, Red-throated Loon 140, Red-necked Grebe **8** (7 by Mary Louise Rosegay party in Treasure Is. area; 1 by Laurie Binford party in Berkeley shore area), Horned Grebe 369, Eared Grebe 143, Western Grebe 1287, Pied-billed Grebe 142, White Pelican 1 (Rich Stallcup party over Moraga), Brown Pelican 13, Double-crested Cormorant 502, Brandt's Cormorant **147**, Pelagic Cormorant 15, Great Blue Heron 51, Green Heron 1 (Ned Boyajian party at St. Mary's College), Great Egret 61, Snowy Egret 110, Black-crowned Night Heron 67, Whistling Swan 6 (3 Ray Higgs party over Erstwhile Marsh; 2 by Tom Southworth party over Knowland Park; 1 by Paul Covell party at L. Merritt), Canada Goose 1823, White-fronted Goose 3 (2 by Rosegay party; 1 by Richard Dean party in Albany shore area), Snow or Ross' Goose 1 (Higgs party), Mallard 1228, Gadwall **70** (68 by Bruce Elliott at Oakland Airport; 1 by Steve Bailey party on Utah Fill; 1 by Covell party), Pintail **8852**, Green-winged Teal 130, Cinnamon Teal 14 (Howard Brownson & Phil Gordon on San Leandro Bay), American Wigeon **7977**, Northern Shoveler **6447**, Wood Duck 70, Redhead 22 (21 by Binford party; 1 by Bailey party), Ring-necked Duck 23, Canvasback 2351, Greater Scaup 2550, Lesser Scaup 8258, scaup (sp.) 7219, Common Goldeneye 265, Barrow's Goldeneye 11 (10 by George Peyton boat party; 1 by Covell party), Bufflehead 366, **Oldsquaw 2** (1 by Binford party; 1 by Rosegay party), White-winged Scoter 710, Surf Scoter **19,717**, Black Scoter 5 (2 by Peyton party, 2 by Dean party, 1 by Binford party), Ruddy Duck 3569, Hooded Merganser 2 (1 by Joe Morlan party at L. Anza; 1 by Richard Johnson party on Bay

Farm Is.), Common Merganser 19, Red-breasted Merganser 179, duck (sp.) 20, Turkey Vulture 164, White-tailed Kite 1 (Craig Hohenberger-Dave Rudholm party in Moraga), Sharp-shinned Hawk 42 (new National all-time high count record), Cooper's Hawk 22, Accipiter (sp.) 3, Red-tailed Hawk 168, **Red-shouldered Hawk 2** (1-2 by Dave Gaines and Bob Stewart in Nick Story party at San Pablo Res.; 1 by Bill Manolis at San Pablo Cr. in Bill Principe party; 1 seen in that area after count by B. Principe), **Rough-legged Hawk 3** (1 by Binford party, 1 by Johnson party, 1 by Jim Clayton party in Tilden), Golden Eagle 2 (1 by Marie Mans party in Redwood Park and probably same bird by Kurt Rademacher party on Flicker Ridge; 1 by Russell Greenberg party over Jewel L.), Marsh Hawk 6, Merlin 1 (Fisher bros. in Sylvia Sears party near Merritt College), American Kestrel 91, California Quail 800, Ring-necked Pheasant 36, Clapper Rail 9 (3 by Bud Fry party at Alameda; 3 by Rosegay party; 3 by Brownson + Gordon), Virginia Rail 3 (1 by Boyajian party; 1 by Rosegay party; 1 by Story party), Sora 2 (1 by Bailey party; 1 by Rosegay party), American Coot 4435, Semipalmated Plover 100, Snowy Plover 38, Killdeer 603, Black-bellied Plover 1498, Ruddy Turnstone 9, Black Turnstone 64, Common Snipe 17 (15 by Story party; 1 by Bailey party; 1 by Dean party), Long-billed Curlew 66, Whimbrel 12, Spotted Sandpiper 22, **Wandering Tattler 1** (Binford party), Willet 1384, Greater Yellowlegs 14, Red Knot 69, Least Sandpiper 1305, Dunlin 6217, Short-billed Dowitcher 585, Long-billed Dowitcher 76, dowitcher (sp.) 842, Western Sandpiper 5830, Marbled Godwit 1408, Sanderling 1612, American Avocet 875, **Black-necked Stilt 1** (Higgs party), Glaucous-winged Gull 3997, Western Gull 9914, Herring Gull 64, Thayer's Gull 3 (2 by Binford party; 1 by Ron LeValley in Peyton party), California Gull 3439, Ring-billed Gull 2298, Mew Gull 1043, Bonaparte's Gull 230, Heermann's Gull 7, gull (sp.) 2231, Forster's Tern 291, **Common Murre 7** (4 parties), **Pigeon Guillemot 1** (Dean party), Band-tailed Pigeon 1629, Rock Dove 549 (they count this year), Mourning Dove 2113, Barn Owl 2 (1 by Binford party; 1 by Higgs party), Screech Owl 6, Great Horned Owl 96 (new National all-time high count), Pygmy Owl 1 (found by Brian McCaffery in Jean Richmond party at Upper San Leandro Res.), Burrowing Owl 9, Short-eared Owl 2 (1 by Binford party; 1 by Brownson + Gordon), Saw-whet Owl 7 (3 by Stallcup party; 2 by Morlan party; 2 by Sadie Brown-Van Remsen party in Redwood Park), White-throated Swift 10 (8 by Alan Pistorius party in Gateway area; 2 by Walt Koenig party in Claremont Cnyn), Anna's Hummingbird 639, **Selasphorus** (sp.) 2, Belted Kingfisher 11, Common Flicker (Red-sh.) 722, Common Flicker (Yellow-shafted) 1 (Pistorius party), Acorn Woodpecker 40, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 59, Hairy Woodpecker 9, Downy Woodpecker 43, Nuttall's Woodpecker 48, Black Phoebe 40, Say's Phoebe 8, **Western Flycatcher 1** (found by Sadie Brown and also seen by Remsen at Mountain View Cemetery), Horned Lark 132, **Violet-green Swallow 1** (Boyajian party), **Tree Swallow 6** (5 by Lisa Johnsen in Lenore Johnsen party in El Toyonal area; 1 by Mans party), **Rough-winged Swallow 1** (Stallcup party), Steller's Jay 1832 (new National all-time high count record), Scrub Jay 1795 (new National all-time high count record), **Common Raven 4** (2 by Tom Custer party in Siesta Valley area; 2 by Higgs party), Common Crow 231, Chestnut-backed Chickadee 1357 (new National all-time high count record), Plain Titmouse 408 (new National all-time high count record), Bushtit 3313 (new National all-time high count record), White-breasted Nuthatch 27, Red-breasted Nuthatch 140, Brown Creeper 22, Wrentit 803, **Dipper 1** (Morlan party), Winter Wren 68, Bewick's Wren 311 (new National all-time high count record), Long-billed Marsh Wren 2 (1 by Binford party; 1 by Boyajian party), Rock Wren 11 (9 by Hurd + Bland in Chabot Park; 2 by Pistorius party), Mockingbird 134, California Thrasher 146, American Robin 44,104, Varied Thrush 2720, Hermit Thrush 301, Western Bluebird 94, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1** (R. Greenberg party), Golden-crowned Kinglet 63, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 603, Water Pipit 433, Cedar Waxwing 2328, **Northern Shrike 1** (spotted by Glenn Clifton in Rosegay party), Loggerhead Shrike 21, Starling 6891, Hutton's Vireo 85 (new National all-time high count record; Marie Mans located 43 using playback of song with tape recorder), **Warbling Vireo 1** (found by Janice Southworth; convincing description for one of the few winter records for Western N. America), Orange-crowned Warbler 5, Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle) 208, Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's) 758, Yellow-rumped Warbler (unident.) 43, Townsend's Warbler 47, Common Yellowthroat 2 (1 by Mans party; 1 by Stallcup party), House Sparrow

1857, Western Meadowlark 868, Red-winged Blackbird 5016, Tricolored Blackbird 215 (205 by Elliott; 10 by Hilton-Greenberg party at San Leandro Bay), Brewer's Blackbird 2809, Brown-headed Cowbird 13 (10 by Bob Rodrigues at Alameda dump; 2 by John Luther + Bob Dyer at Alameda Naval Air Station; 1 by Dean party), blackbird (sp.) 941, **Western Tanager 1, Evening Grosbeak 3** (Hurd + Bland), Purple Finch 108, **Cassin's Finch 1** (Stallcup party), House Finch 6448, Pine Siskin 822, American Goldfinch 152 (scarce), Lesser Goldfinch 403, **Red Crossbill 9** (Morlan party), Rufous-sided Towhee 670, Brown Towhee **1976** (new National all-time high count record), Savannah Sparrow 195, Lark Sparrow 12 (Garth Alton in Moraga Valley), Rufous-crowned Sparrow 3 (2 by Pistorius party; 1 by Clayton party), Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 3, Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco 2894, White-crowned Sparrow 1917, Golden-crowned Sparrow 1340 (down), White-throated Sparrow 7, Fox Sparrow 618, Lincoln's Sparrow 10, Song Sparrow 806. Total 188 species; over 232,000 individuals.

JANUARY FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Yellow-billed Loon, Monterey harbor, Jan. 10—JB, SS, LJ.

Short-tailed Shearwaters, 3, OAS boat trip in Monterey Bay, Jan. 26.

Fork-tailed Storm-petrels, 5, OAS boat trip in Monterey Bay, Jan. 26.

Cattle Egret, Pt. Reyes, Jan. 5—GGAS field trip.

Whistling Swans, 4, Limantour Estero, Jan. 2—DB, H & MG, JM, AP, GZ.

Blue-winged Teal, Coyote Hills R.P., Jan. 26—A & DF, PP.

Oldsquaws, 3 at Moss Landing and 1 at Monterey, through end of month.
—m.ob.

Rough-legged Hawks continue to be abundant throughout the region through January.

Ferruginous Hawks, 2, Grey Lodge, Jan. 12—J & SL, GM, RS.

Black Rails, 7 on Jan. 7, 3 on Jan. 8, 1 on Jan. 9; all during flood tides at Benicia St. Rec. Area—m. ob

Red Phalaropes, up to 10,000 in Monterey Bay (and elsewhere along the coast), early Jan.; all had left by Jan. 26—m. ob.

Pomarine Jaegers, 2 from Pt. Pinos, Jan. 5—DE, VR, TS; 1 on OAS boat trip in Monterey Bay, Jan. 26.

Glaucous Gull, OAS boat trip in Monterey Bay, Jan. 26.

Snowy Owls continue to arrive. They have now been seen in every coastal county, as far south as San Francisco and San Mateo. One was found shot at the Salinas River mouth, Jan. 5, for the southernmost California specimen ever.

Saw-whet Owl, Lake Anza, Jan. 31—HJ.

Poor-will, found torpid in a hole in Marin Co. in mid-January. The bird was removed from the hole, and subsequently died. This bird would probably have lived if an overzealous "birder" hadn't wanted a better look.

Allen's Hummingbird, Napa, Jan. 25, an early arrival—DPC.

Mountain Bluebirds, 10, Calaveras Reservoir near Sunol, Jan. 27—PE, RG.

Northern Shrike, Ano Nuevo St. Park, Jan. 10—DAG.

Nashville Warbler, Lafayette Reservoir, Jan. 6—P & DW.

Parula Warbler, still at Grey Lodge on Jan. 4—RS.

Lark Buntings, 2, Grey Lodge, Jan. 12—J & SL, GM, RS.

Observers: Dan Boelter, Jean Brandt, Dale Peters Clyde, Peter Egan, Dick Erickson, Anthony & David Fisher, David A. Gaines, Helen & Mike Green, Russ Greenberg, Hans Johanson, Lee Jones, John & Susan Luther, Georgianne Manolis, Joe Morlan, Ohlone Audubon Society, Alan Pistorius, Paeo Prieto, Van Remsen, Tom Schulenberg, Rich Stallcup, Shumway Suffel, Peter & Dolores White, Gray Zam-zow; many observers (m.ob.).

—BILL PRINCIPE, *Bay Area Birds Editor* (254-1071)

FIELD TRIPS FOR MARCH

Saturday, March 9: Meet at 9 A.M. at the first parking lot inside the Doran Beach entrance, about one mile south of the center of the town of **Bodega Bay**. (Toll gate eats two quarters). To pool rides, meet at the parking lot at the S. F. side of the Golden Gate Bridge at 7 A.M. Leader: Bruce Schatzman (386-1876).

Sunday, March 17: Take Nimitz Freeway (17), exit on Jarvis Ave. (Dumbarton Bridge off-ramp), drive west on Jarvis to Newark Blvd. (1st signal), turn right and in a mile turn left on Patterson Road. Meet in the big parking lot at **Coyote Hills Regional Park** at 9 A.M. There will be several miles of walking, but we should see owls, waterfowl, and shorebirds. Leader: Peter Allen (781-0148).

Wednesday, March 20: Meet at 9:30 A.M. at the Inverness Store, on the east side of the street in Inverness. Park in the far rear. We will bird on **Point Reyes**. Inverness is about 20 miles west of San Rafael on Sir Francis Drake Blvd., about 1½ hours drive from S. F. or Oakland. Leader: Jim Clayton (523-2917).

Sunday, March 24: Cross the Golden Gate Bridge, and take the Alexander Ave. exit just past the bridge. Turn left after about ¼ mile, go through the tunnel, and wait in the parking lot at the other end at 8:30 A.M. to bird in **Fort Cronkhite**. Leader: Joel Fontaine (386-4561).

Saturday, March 30: We take a morning walk through Veterans' Park near **Livermore**. Meet in Livermore one block south of the tall flagpole on Livermore Ave. at 8:30 A.M. Or meet at the Rotary Science Center on Lake Merritt (Bellevue & Perkins) at 7:30 A.M. to share rides. Guest leader from Ohlone: Art Edwards (447-3720).

Sunday, April 7: A six-mile general ecology hike - flowers, trees, birds - in Bear Valley on **Point Reyes**. Drive to the National Seashore Hqtrs. near Olema, and meet at the big parking lot ½ mile past the hqtrs. at 9 A.M. Bring your lunch in a knapsack. Leader: George Peyton (531-5588).

No leader trips: Meet at **9 A.M.** on **March 13** at the Little Farm in **Tilden Park**, or on **March 27** at the Academy of Sciences in **Golden Gate Park**. Choose your own leaders, and lunch is optional.

Dates to hold: Camping trip to the **Pinnacles** (May 11-12-13), **Yosemite** (June 1-2), **Yuba Pass** (June 15-16).

—PAT TRIGGS, *Fieldtrips Chairman* (664-8502)

BOAT TRIPS

On **Saturday, April 6** and **Sunday, April 7** the Golden Gate Audubon Society will sponsor boat trips to circle the **Farallon Islands** for those interested in viewing the nesting birds. The trips are scheduled to leave from Pillar Point Harbor in Princeton at **7:30 A.M.** and return between 3 and 4 P.M. Fare will be \$10 per person. Please send your check (payable to Golden Gate Audubon) along with a self-addressed envelope (stamped) to Golden Gate Audubon, Boat Trip, P. O. Box 5022, Berkeley 94705. Reservations will be on a first-come, first served basis and will close when the boats are filled. Princeton is located on Half Moon Bay, about an hour drive from San Francisco.

—PETER WHITE, *Boat Trip Chairman*

BEGINNERS' FIELD TRIPS

FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS of all ages (10-16 year old beginners are especially welcome), **Ruth Voss** and **Carlos Jordan** offer three Saturday morning walks on **April 13, 20, and 27**. The walks will start at the parking lot adjacent to the **Tilden Park Nature Area** at **8:30 A.M.** If enough interest develops, more walks will be scheduled by this team. For details call Ruth Voss (525-8032).

P.R.B.O. COURSES

After five successful courses in 1973, the Point Reyes Bird Observatory looks forward to a fine 1974 schedule. Eight courses are given this year. They are: **BREEDING ECOLOGY OF POINT REYES BIRDS**, May 17-19, \$45, deadline for enrollment, May 10; **BIRDS OF SOUTHWEST ARIZONA**, May 14-21, \$200, deadline, April 25; **TRANSECT OF CALIFORNIA**, June 21-27, \$185, deadline May 15; also July 12-18, deadline, June 15; **SHOREBIRD ECOLOGY, LAND-BIRD MIGRATION**, Sept. 6-8, \$45, deadline, Sept. 1; **BIRDS OF SAN BLAS, MEXICO**, \$200, Nov. 9-17, deadline, Oct. 10; also Nov. 23-Dec. 1, deadline, Oct. 10; also Dec. 7-15, deadline Oct. 10.

Your check made out to P.R.B.O. is your reservation for the course. Mail it to Box 442, Bolinas, CA 94924. Or write to Meryl Stewart at that address for more information.

From Your President's Stockpile

SPRING BOUQUETS. To **Charles Huppe**, a four star exhibitor in the Photographic Society of America in the Nature and Pictorial divisions, who in the course of giving excellent slide shows to garden and conservation groups, always seeks to recruit new GGAS members. Recently he was responsible for seeing to the lettering and placing of a Golden Gate Audubon Society sign outside the building housing the GGAS office at 2718 Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley.

To **Vi Homem**, past Gull Editor and Bird Observations Chairman, who has agreed to take on the job of Librarian and Historian for GGAS. Vi, a professional librarian, will catalogue our collection of hard cover books and other reference material making them available to the members for browsing in our office.

To **Mr. and Mrs. Harold G. Sharp**, who donated an Audubon print of the Pileated Woodpeckers, which is not only handsome in its own right, but which is of historical interest since the original owner was THE Cooper who lent his name to the Cooper Ornithological Society and to Cooper's Hawk.

To **Sylvia McLaughlin**, who has given us her limited lithographed edition of Roger Tory Peterson's painting of Whooping Cranes (which is given to Life Members in the National Audubon Society). This will be framed so as to allow for a harmonious grouping of the pictures of the Pileated Woodpeckers and the Whooping Cranes on one of the cork walls in our office.

To **Max Gardner**, Professor Emeritus of Plant Pathology at U.C. Berkeley and an avid bird watcher for more than 70 years, who donated approximately 36 unbound plates from Dawson's *Birds of California* to GGAS. These will be displayed, six at a time, on a rotational basis in the entry room to our office.

To **Mr. H. Keating**, of Keating's Duplicator Repair Service who, as a personal favor to GGAS, secured for us and serviced at a very nominal cost an excellent used, but modern, A.B. Dick mimeograph machine. This will reduce the cost to the Society of many items, such as the *Hot Line* which has been duplicated outside the office.

To our Conservation Chairman **Paul Covel**, who, on the basis of his outstanding contributions to Horticulture, was named "Man of the Year" by members of the Oakland-East Bay Garden Center.

To **Frances Ellen Fallgatter**, whose gift of \$10,000 to Audubon Canyon Ranch (matched with equal funds from the Whittell Estate) enabled A.C.R. to purchase an acre of property adjacent to the Ranch and helped to secure four lots along Pacific Way at Muir Beach in which grow the pine trees where so many thousands of Monarch Butterflies overwinter.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. GGAS is responsible for providing hosts for Audubon Canyon Ranch on Saturdays and Sundays during June. Couples particularly are sought to cut down on the use of cars and to facilitate scheduling. Why not team up with a friend and offer to spend a day enjoying the sun, the nesting herons and greeting fellow bird watchers? Call Mary Louise Rosegay (561-2889) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

Erica Fielder, Director of Day Camps for the City of Berkeley, requests that we seek volunteers among our members who would be willing to help on any basis convenient to them, in providing nature-oriented activities for the 7-12 year olds who attend day camp in Tilden Park. Each session runs from Monday through Thursday (with an overnight on Thursday) and each child pays only \$5 per session, leaving little leeway for paid help. Assisting in this program would be rewarding, not only for adults but for older teenagers with a special interest and background in outdoor living and nature study, since they are often exceptionally successful as teachers of their near-contemporaries. If you can help in this worthwhile program please contact Erica Fielder at 644-6520 (days) or at 848-6068 (evenings).

Mrs. Inez Koenig of Alameda (522-4724) has pointed up the desirability of car pooling for the National Audubon Society Western Conference at Asilomar (April 6-9). If any driver can accomodate Mrs. Koenig in her car please call her direct. If you are interested in teaming up with other GGAS members for traveling to and from the conference, please call the Audubon office and we will help, if possible, to bring riders and drivers together.

Tom Williams, Chairman of the Committee on the Environment, regrets that he lost the list of GGAS members who attended the San Francisco General Membership meeting which featured June Mahall of the Environmental Protection Agency. He has already held two meetings to review environmental impact reports and invites all interested parties to contact him at 548-0939 to learn about future meetings of the committee.

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN EXTENDING YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF BIRDS BEYOND THEIR IDENTIFICATION IN THE FIELD? If enough GGAS members express an interest, we will try to schedule one (or more) non-field Elementary Ornithology courses, possibly beginning in April. The proposed course (to be taught by an orni-

thologist) would meet for one two-hour session per week for from 8-10 weeks and would include such subjects as the evolution, anatomy, physiology, classification, and behavior of birds, including migration, courtship, and nesting. Our charge must meet the full cost of such a course and we propose that for a minimum of 16 students at \$25-\$30 (plus text) we could cover the cost of the teacher, room rental, possible film rental, duplication of needed materials, and other direct cost of the course to GGAS.

If members express interest in this type of GGAS activity, we would consider setting up other courses, either field or lecture oriented, in various aspects of Natural History. Please help us gauge your interest in this type of activity by filling in the following questionnaire. (or a facsimile).

1. Would you like to take the course proposed above?.....

2. Would you prefer a course given in S.F. ☐, East Bay ☐, Either ☐.

3. Preferred night of the week Other possible nights.....

4. What other types of courses would interest you

5. Would you be interested in teaching a course or in collaborating on giving a course? If so in what area of interest?

Name..... Address..... Telephone.....

Dr. James Clayton, newly appointed chairman of our Future Planning Committee, will screen these questionnaires and will notify you by mail if a course can be arranged. Send the information requested above to Dr. James Clayton, 1082 Miller Ave., Berkeley, 94708 (524-2917).

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION: Although the GGAS Constitutional Revision Committee [Mary Louise Rosegay (chairman), Aileen Pierson and Erlene Hevel] have considerable work to do before presenting a revised Constitution to the members for approval, they would like to submit the following article to the membership for consideration at the March 14 General Membership meeting, thus facilitating the work of Pat Triggs, chairman of the nominating committee, who can then begin rounding out the proposed slate of officers for the year 1974-75. Please make a special effort to attend so that we may be assured the necessary quorum for action.

ARTICLE III: Board of Directors

Section 1. The control and conduct of business of the Society shall be vested in its Board of Directors. The Board shall determine the policies of the Society. The Board shall include (a) the elected officers (b) chairmen of standing committees, (c) not more than six (6) Directors elected by the members for terms of three years with the terms of office so arranged that two Directors shall be elected each year and (d) such other individuals as shall be designated by the Board in its Statutes. No member of the Board may receive remuneration from the Society excepting reimbursement for all authorized expenditures.

Passage of the above article would mean that at the next election the number of Directors would be increased from three to six, as follows, in so far as possible: Claire Johnson (East Bay) has two years more left in her term, Carl Kindt (East Bay) has one year, and Sylvia McLaughlin's (East Bay) term ends this year. To be elected would be one Director (West Bay) for two years, one director (West Bay) for one year, one director for three years (East Bay) and one director for three years (West Bay). This would result in two directors (one from each side of the Bay) thereafter being elected annually.

—G. R. MACHULIS, *President*

OAKLAND MUSEUM**NATURAL SCIENCES PROGRAMS****DEATH VALLEY**

MARCH 9 - MAY 19

Changing Gallery

This exhibit, through the photography of Ulric and Marie Meisel, uses the simplicity and mood of the land to stimulate a greater public awareness of the desert — its beauty and delicacy. It provides a photographic image of the forms, moods and inhabitants of this ecosystem, to be discovered by one who takes the time to search. All ninety photographs presented in the show were selected by the photographers from hundreds taken during three years of photographing and studying in Death Valley. Try to attend the reception in the Natural Sciences Changing Gallery, Friday Night, March 8 from 8 - 10 P.M.

ADVENTURES IN NATURE

Friday, March 15 8:00 P.M.

Museum Theater

SEA TERRACE ECOSYSTEM

JOHN OLMSTED

A color slide film lecture by John Olmsted, President of the Institute of Man in Nature, that reveals the changing moods of the Mendocino Coast from tidepool and sand dune habitats through coastal scrub community and into redwood forest. The unique pygmy forest and its interesting soil profile will be a feature of this program. Admission is free but donations accepted.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Audubon Canyon Ranch

*In memory of:**Gift of:*

Harriet Ringer Blake	Helen G. Roller
Robert Wilson Blake	Helen G. Roller
Jan Chaeona	Helen G. Roller
Arnold Lockley	Helen G. Roller
Dorothy Rowe	Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth D. Gardner
Myra Jones Browne	Mrs. Harold C. Bryant, Yosemite Field School Alumni
Marvin Fallgatter	Golden Gate Audubon Society, Edith Magnuson

*In honor of:**Gift of:*

Dr. Albert Boles	Stan Pieher, Aileen Pierson, Eric & Laurel Reynolds, Golden Gate Audubon Society
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Sanctuary and Memorial Fund

*In memory of:**Gift of:*

Kate Kenyon	Paul & Marion Covel
H. Irving Rhine	Mr. & Mrs. Carlton B. Woods, Charles A. Trollet
Medical Care for Birds	Donatella B. Robles



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MARCH 1974

THE GULL

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

President	.....Dr. Gertrude Machlis	1871 Thousand Oaks Bl., Berkeley 94707	525-8473
Vice President	.....Mrs. Harold Rosegay	540-A Presidio Blvd., Prs. of S.F. 94129	561-2889
Vice President	.....Peter White	425 Lee Street #39, Oakland 94610	832-6504
Treasurer	.....Robert C. Johnsen	4 Del Valle, Orinda 94563	254-3919
Recording Secretary	.....Bill Love	3623 Lorena Ave., Castro Valley 94546	581-4449
Corresponding Secretary	.....Mrs. Robert C. Johnsen	4 Del Valle, Orinda 94563	254-3919
Director	.....Carl W. Kindt	3840 Quail Ridge Rd., Lafayette 94549	254-5463
Director	.....Mrs. Donald H. McLaughlin	1450 Hawthorne Ter., Berkeley 94708	848-0699
Director	.....Mrs. Richard F. Johnson	1127 El Centro Ave., Oakland 94602	530-7118
Editor	.....Phila Witherell	1515 Olympus Ave., Berkeley 94708	848-9156
Assistant Editor	.....Bill Principe	301 Camino Pablo, Orinda 94563	254-1071
Program Chairperson	.....Ms. Dolores White	425 Lee Street #39, Oakland 94610	832-6504
Asslst. Program Ch.	.....Miss Erline Hevel	425 Ulloa St., San Francisco 94127	661-4251
Field Trips Chairman	.....Miss Patricia Triggs	2038-33rd Ave., San Francisco 94116	664-8502
Membership SecretaryMrs. Alan Pistorius	2718 Telegraph Ave., #206 Berkeley 94705	843-2222
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Education ChairmanMrs. Russell E. Lawton	8 Manor Dr., Piedmont 94611	653-1230
BAAC Delegate	.....Raymond Higgs	340 Espanada Apt. 20, Pacifica 94044	355-6264

Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward the *GULL*. Monthly meetings—second Thursday 7:30 P.M. Joint membership—local and national \$12 per year (individual); \$15 (family); includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and the *GULL*; to join, make check payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving the *GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to the *GULL* separately \$2 per year. High school and college student membership \$6 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.